

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has submitted for an Examiner's review amendment to the claims in an effort to overcome the refusal based upon the Allen, Harpell and Gallo references. One of the amendments made to the only independent claim, Claim 15, is a description that the first end and second end of the elongated bar is positioned along a vertical reference axis. Additionally, the lock cutting tool is further defined as being a generally rectangular flat plate having axially aligned leading and trailing edges, which allows the lock cutting tool to form an angle to the vertical reference axis of the elongated bar. The bar is also joined to the cutting tool, by being generally centered on the top surface of the lock cutting tool. Applicant argues that this language overcomes the Allen reference and thus the Section 102 refusal of Claim 15 and any other claims dependent upon claim 15.

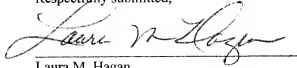
While the above mentioned amendments also serve to distinguish Applicant's invention over the Gallo reference, one final amendment has been made to further distinguish over the Harpell reference and thus the Section 103 refusal. Claim 15 has been modified to further disclosed the removable tool piece on the second end of the elongated bar. Applicant believes that this language serves to overcome the section 103 rejections based on Gallo and Harpell. None of the references cited by the examiner disclose these added limitations.

An additional claim modification refers to the second end of the elongated bar wherein language is placed in the claim that the tool piece located on the second end of the bar is removable and fits within a receptacle on the second end of the elongated bar.

Therefore, applicant respectfully requests Examiner to reconsider the application and to pass the present application to allowance. If the Examiner believes that unresolved issues remain in this case, Applicant requests Examiner contact Applicant's attorney of record listed below.

Application No.: 10/658,338
Inventor: Bosse
Response to O.A. dated 10-22-2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura M. Hagan", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end.

Laura M. Hagan
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Date: December 17, 2007

cc: Dale Shoffner